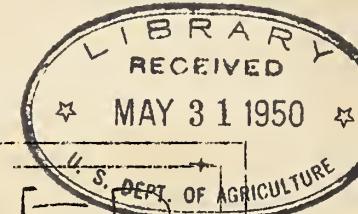


Historic, archived document

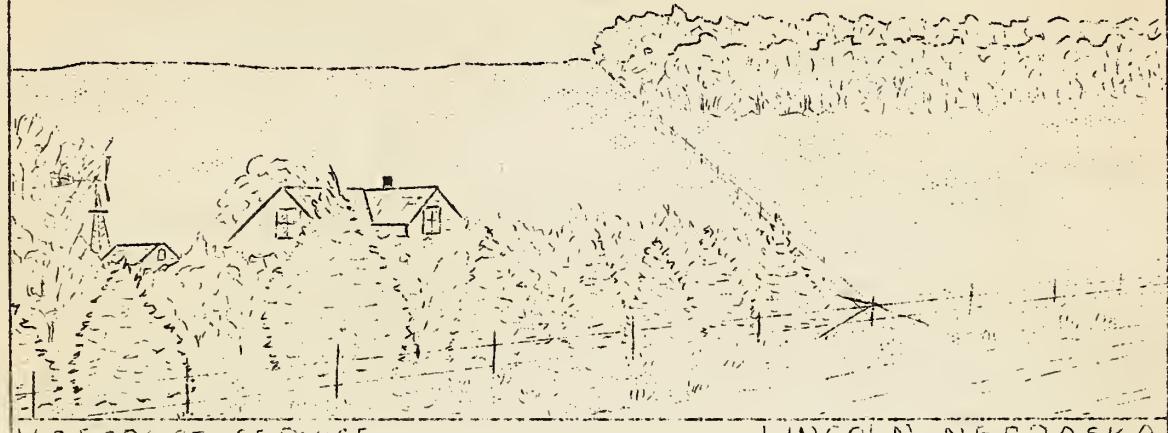
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

F7612P
Copy. 2

LIBRARY
Shelterbelt Project



PLAINS FORESTER



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Vol. I

November - 1936

No. 2

THE ACP RANGE PROGRAM

The Range Conservation Program is now under way in North Dakota and Kansas, with 72 Forest Service men in the field making range examinations. It has been no small task to gather that number of men, mostly from other Regions which have range programs of their own, and to get them established in a new kind of work in country with which they were not familiar. We know, too, that it has meant a great deal in a personal way to most of these men, who, on short notice were required to hurriedly adjust their personal affairs and rush over to this project. But in spite of this, and of a snowstorm in North Dakota, the men are striking away with a spirit of enthusiasm and earnestness on this new undertaking on a worth while job, which they recognize as being pointed toward saving and building back a tremendously valuable natural resource.

One important element of their work is that, as representatives of the Forest Service, they are establishing this Service in territory where it has scarcely been known at all heretofore. From reports of their contacts which have been reaching the Lincoln Office, these range examiners are making new friends for themselves and for the Service.

So far there are about 3850 applications in North Dakota and 715 in Kansas. Our men examine the range lands of each ranch unit to estimate their livestock carrying capacity. This is done in accordance with methods previously developed by the Forest Service. Briefly, this consists of looking over the land enough to see a good cross section average. The

kinds of grasses, woods and shrubs are listed; and the density, compared with a full cover, such as a lawn, is observed, and the percentages of each of the plants is estimated. The forage value of each is obtained from what we call "palatability tables," which list local plants with a figure indicating their relative value as livestock feed. From the density of the vegetation, its composition and palatability, the forage factor and range-carrying capacity are calculated.

- F. Lee Kirby

ABOUT THOSE CONIFER ROWS

In reference to Mr. Carlton's inquiry in the last issue:

Planting of the cedar row two years after the hardwoods have been set out is ideal for cedar. The protection afforded by the earlier planting in adjoining rows is of considerable importance in cedar survival, and yet cedar is tolerant of shade and thrives under the canopy of the faster growing hardwoods. This is not true of pines. Of course we must take into account the additional cost of returning to those strips to make the planting of cedar. The cost per surviving tree is the measuring stick, consequently it may be found more economical to set out a greater number of cedar at the time the whole composition is being planted, take our loss, and still leave enough surviving to make a stand, or use a temporary expedient such as shingles to protect the seedlings from the damaging winds. However, Carlton's plan will, I feel, work out best, and until more is known about our problems with conifers, that seems the safest. But Howard, why two years for Oklahoma? Up north where the trees are pretty dinky that's all right, but you remember last month we climbed trees in your two-year-old strips and looked at birds' nests. One-year-old trees in Oklahoma are doing business for the farms, to say nothing of protecting cedars planted within the belts.

- D. S. Olson

TOTAL UNSUBMITTED VOUCHERS AS OF NOVEMBER 10,

ACCOUNTS INCURRED PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1

| Unit | Form 1034 | | Reimbursement | | | | Total Accounts Submitted By Units Since July 1 |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|---------------|-------|------|--------|--|
| | Vouchers | No. | Accounts | No. | Amt. | Total | |
| | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | |
| North Dakota | 4 | 38.87 | | | 4 | 38.87 | 1567 |
| South Dakota | 7 | 215.26 | | | 7 | 215.26 | 1329 |
| Nebraska | 2 | 8.94 | 1 | 7.50 | 3 | 16.44 | 1387 |
| Kansas | | | 1 | 44.05 | 1 | 44.05 | 1233 |
| Oklahoma | 4 | 24.50 | | | 4 | 24.50 | 822 |
| Texas | 2 | 29.36 | | | 2 | 29.36 | 1027 |
| Regional Office | | | | | | | 238 |
| TOTALS | 19 | 316.93 | 2 | 51.55 | 21 | 368.48 | 7603 |

BUT WE GOT THEM ANSWERED !

I seen yer plain foester at the plantin crew depo an eny durn fool kud anser them questchuns rit by TM.

The best way to find out if a tree is ded is to pull it up. If it aint it will be cuz chances are you wont plant it rite when you put it back.

What a dum questchun the 2nd is. You know we planted lotsa trees that didnt have no tops, dead or alive. Then rabbits and other varmints et tops off rite away till we give them something else to eat that had a kick to it. They grew didn't they, I mean the trees, even if thar wasent any top to start with. So if the roots are live the tree is.

Of course jumpin joe is gonna find out how much breeze on the roots kills a tree just like you stick your finger on "Wet Paint" to see if it is. But I hope he dont find its 8 minits and 16 seconds cuz we hold a tree 8 minits 15 seconds like we hold a fire kracker we gonna drop in the water.

I dunno the reason not to prun tops off American elm. May be its just like dehorning a Texas longhorn. He aint a Texas longhorn eny more, jus a Nebraska sandhill cow. Yuh see the elm has a pekuller form, like a vase. It snuggles nice agin the other trees. Wen you dehorn it it'll grow diffrent and wont snuggle eny more.

The best way to usc pect moss is fill up yer auto cushion wherc the horse hair has leaked out.

- Shelterbelt Sam, R. R.

THINKS PLAINS FORESTRY PROGRAM WOULD HELP NURSERY BUSINESS

The following is taken from "Jewell Nursery Notes," publication of the Jewell Nursery Company, Lake City, Minnesota:

"Eastern Nurserymen have several times asked us what we knew about the status of the '100-mile shelterbelt' from the Canadian border on South. Although we live over here on the west bank of Old Man River, we seem supposed to know about it. Something, at least.

"A DAKOTA NURSERYMAN very recently gave us this slant: In spite of drouth conditions, there has been good survival in the plantings thus far made; farmers are pleased with the work done -- many now coming in who were at first skeptical. That seems to mean that the people on the prairie are for it, taken as a whole.-- He believes that the nurserymen are going to be greatly benefitted, as the Project gets under way, in that establishment of an adequate tree growth over such a wide area will induce the farmers to greater planting of fruits and other private extension of forestation. We have always believed that.

"FOR SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS the Jewell nursery has been selling windbreak and other nursery stock on the prairies, which began in Western Minnesota, and followed the settlement of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana -- to say nothing of those good old days of big sales in the central Provinces of Canada.-- My father "proved up" on a couple of quarter-sections in Dakota Territory back about 1890 under the Federal 'timber-claim law;' and he got some mighty good windbreaks going. But he always maintained that until the work was done on a grand scale by the government itself, there wasn't much chance of 'filling the prairies with trees.'

"SEVERAL HAVE NOTED the fact, in the past Summer, that there has been little or no opposition voiced in the press to either the 'Big Shelterbelt' or the Conservation Corps. Both Projects appear to have proved themselves practical."

SOUTH DAKOTA HAD FIRST TIMBER SALE

The first Forest "Reserve" timber sale was made in South Dakota to the Homestake Mining Co. in 1898. It was made by the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture, which later became the Forest Service. The sale was located on the Nemo District in the Black Hills.

THANK YOU, SIR!

Struthers Burt, writing in Today Magazine, has these kind words for the Forest Service:

"I doubt if anywhere in the world there is a more efficient, vigilant, or courageous service than the U. S. Forest Service. I doubt if there is one which more consistently improves its methods, its equipment, or its morale."

REPRESENTATIVE THOM PRAISES SHELTERBELT

The following excerpts are from an address by Representative William R. Thom at Canton, Ohio, in which he described conditions as he had found them on a recent trip into the drought area. State Director Cobb spent considerable time with Mr. Thom while he was in North Dakota.

"Another major project proposed to help the Great Plains area is the construction of a shelterbelt of trees 100 miles wide, extending from Canada to the Mexican border, work on which was undertaken in 1935 as a part of the drought emergency work program of that year. The project did not this year receive the approval of the House Appropriations Committee because of doubt as to its feasibility. It was, therefore, with a great deal of interest that I visited three stretches of land, each one mile long and ten rods wide, planted by the U. S. Forest Service last year. I saw with my own eyes that the trees will grow despite what some of my western colleagues told me in Congress."

A WOOD-LOT GOLD MINE

The most valuable tree in this country of which there is any record, according to the Rocky Mountain Region Bulletin, was a Kentucky walnut which sold for \$1500 on the stump, and was cut up into \$35,000 worth of veneers.

OUR "GRASS COUNTERS" RECEIVE SPLENDID COOPERATION

The "Tree Planting Gang" have stepped out into the field of "counting grass." The range conservation program offered by the AAA in North Dakota and Kansas has developed widespread interest among the stockmen, and about seventy five range examiners are engaged in establishing grazing capacity and recommending approved practices. Four thousand six hundred applications in North Dakota and one thousand six hundred eighty nine in Kansas as of November 25 have placed a job load on the Shelterbelt organization that was immediately met by numerous details of personnel from other regions and the selection of locally qualified men wherever available.

The outstanding factor in this work is the high degree of cooperative achievement. State Committees in North Dakota and Kansas were contacted and the principles of establishing grazing capacity explained. Very cordial relationships resulted, and the State and County Committees have not hesitated to assume their administrative responsibilities and to work in close cooperation with the Forest Service personnel.

Another high light is the general recognition on the part of livestock operators of the need for a 1937 range program which will permit of benefit payments being made for adjusting stocking to grazing capacity. This practice was given first emphasis by South Dakota at the Brookings meeting on November 9 and 10, and indicates the progressive outlook of the range users in these States, and their appreciation that overstocking has been a primary cause for the depleted conditions of their ranges. I predict very cordial support of the Forest Service as an agency of range management in the Plains States.

- Alva A. Simpson.

FOREST SPONGE HOLDS FLOODS IN ITS MESHES

The extent to which forests aid in preventing floods is shown by actual measurements made by the United States Forest Service.

In the Ohio valley, forest soil is 15 to 30 per cent more porous than field soil and absorbs 50 times as much water as bare soil. Even pastures absorb only a third to a twentieth as much rainfall as forests. The spongy forest soils absorb more water not only in single but in successive storms--an important item in flood control.

On 23 small watersheds at the headwaters of the Mississippi, the run-off from forested land for one year was only 38 cubic feet of water per square mile per second, but from grassed and abandoned lands it was more than 10 times as much, and from denuded lands was 1,304 cubic feet a second per square mile, or nearly 35 times as great as on the forested land. There were no flood conditions from forest run-off, but maximum run-off from other lands often reached flood proportions.

Near Holly Springs, Miss., run-off in a cotton field averaged 58 per cent of the precipitation, and for some rains was as high as 96 per cent, but was less than 1 per cent in an oak forest.

Removal of the litter from pine-hardwood plots in the Southern Appalachians increased run-off from 10 to 150 times.

- U.S.D.A. Clip Sheet

POISONED GRAIN FAILS TO KILL TURKEY

In order to allay the fears of farmers regarding the danger of poisoned grain used in rodent control work to domestic fowls, John N. Hamlet, of the Biological Survey, recently ran a test in North Dakota using a turkey hen for the experiment.

The bird was confined in a pen and fed exclusively on poisoned oats for three days. During this time she ate nearly one-half pound of the grain, though she evidently did not relish the diet and ate ravenously of other food when released. The action of the strychnine was noticeable, the bird suffering several trembling spells, though of diminishing intensity as time went on. There were no convulsions on the third day. Hamlet's report says, "After her first convulsion she drank a great deal of water. Digestion and passage was very rapid. Between convulsions she ate oats as before.....She was well and healthy three weeks after the experiment."

KANSAS REPLANTING BEGINS

Replanting of Kansas shelterbelt strips began November 9. Sidney Burton and Jerry Dahl from the Lincoln Office joined the Kansas high command at the meeting at Pratt on Saturday prior to the beginning of the planting, and the final plans for the attack were perfected. Ten crews of fifteen men each are doing the replanting job, operating from Pratt, Anthony, Coldwater, Ashland, Greensburg, Kinsley, St. John, Great Bend, and Larned. An estimate made on a ten per cent count late in September shows that it will be necessary to replant fifty per cent of the trees in the strips. The loss of one-half was the result of the severe drought and grasshopper attack of the past summer.

The nursery stock being used is excellent in quality and is much larger than was used last spring. Slightly more than ninety per cent of the shelterbelt owners desire that their plantations be replanted and are anxious to do all in their power to cooperate in the planting and cultivation work. The nursery stock from the three nurseries is being held in at the State Fair grounds in Hutchinson, and deliveries to each of the heel-in beds at the different headquarters is made up and sent out from Hutchinson. George Fish is in charge of the Hutchinson storage. If Old Man Winter will keep out of Kansas until his usual Christmas visit, it is expected that the Kansas shelterbelts will be replanted before he arrives.

- W. G. Baxter.

"FORESTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA"

This interesting publication, the report on the tree survey in South Dakota conducted by E. R. Ware under the auspices of the State Planning Board, has been released. It contains 28 letter-size pages of very concise information regarding the forest tree situation, and closes with a comprehensive "Forest Program for the State." The survey was obviously conducted in keeping with the best research traditions of the Forest Service, and the South Dakota Planning Board again demonstrates its aggressiveness in seeking a solution of the land use problems of that State. The report was published by the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, and contains a foreword by Raphael Zon.

: KANSAS :

To date 19 men from Regions One, Two, Three, Four, and Nine, and an additional man from the Resettlement Administration, are busily at work on the range program in Kansas. They are a grand group of men and a credit to the Forest Service.

The closing date for receiving applications was set by the State Committee for November 15, and it is expected that between 1200 and 1500 ranching units will be examined in the 69 counties eligible to participate in the program.

A great many people in Kansas are coming into direct contact with the Forest Service for the first time, through the Range Examiners, and are displaying a lively interest in forestry work in general. The personal appearance in their midst of "Uncle Sam's Forest Ranger" seems to be making quite a hit.

Notice of transfer of Mr. Hugo H. Carlson has just been received. He is now working with the Soil Conservation Service at Laguna, New Mexico. Our best wishes go with Mr. Carlson to his new work.

Nursery-digging operations are now well under way at the Salina and McPherson Nurseries. We expect to begin digging at the Winfield Nursery about November 12. In general, the nursery stock is superior in quality to previous estimates, and more of it is making usable seedlings than was estimated. This unit endorses the field-grading procedure worked out by the Nurserymen of the Region as being far superior to any other method previously used.

About 300,000 trees have already been hauled to the District heel-in beds and replanting is scheduled to begin this month. We expect to use ten crews of fifteen men each to do this replanting work this fall. Soil moisture conditions appear more favorable for planting in this State this fall than at any previous time since the planting work was started in 1935.

Mr. C. G. Bates of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station recently paid this unit a visit, checking over the results obtained to date, and advising us about the completion of some of the plantings. The worst thing resulting from this visit was the instruction that came from Timber Management that we would not plant any of our good - in fact, excellent - ailanthus seedlings.

Mr. Baxter recently attended the 4-H Club conservation camp at Hutchinson, taking with him some tree seeds, seedlings, and other material of a forestry nature. He reported that he had a very excellent experience and that he thought we would receive a request from several of the leaders and club members for additional information on tree planting and care. He stated that the club conference had largely overlooked the forestry phases of conservation and that it was not printed in the program that any member from the Forest Service would be present at this meeting, but it was noted by Mr. Baxter that there was as much interest in forestry as in any other phase of conservation and he said that he thought, under the circumstances, we had made a big step forward in dealing with the club members of this State.

FALL REPLANTING

Although field operations have been delayed because of adverse weather conditions, Nebraska expects to make fall replacements on all of the 1935 and 1936 shelterbelt strips where soil moisture conditions are favorable. Most of the planting will be done in the Neligh and O'Neill districts. The field personnel has been organized and the necessary supply of planting stock has been heeled-in at the districts, but to date weather conditions have permitted replanting only a few strips. Plans are to replant approximately 600,000 seedlings, and with favorable weather, these plans will materialize.

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Digging and grading of nursery stock and storage at the central heel-in bed at Fremont will be practically completed by November 15.

Sweating and field stripping to remove the foliage made it possible to get some of the more tender species, like mulberry and Osage orange, into storage early without exposure to frost. With the approach of freezing temperatures all of the stock remaining in the field that had not been field graded was pulled and put into temporary storage to be graded where low temperatures would not interfere with the progress of the work.

The efficient operation of the nursery field organization will enable Nebraska to harvest and put into winter storage approximately three million premium-grade seedlings.

INOCULATION SHOWS NO ADVANTAGE

The initial results of experiments conducted at the Fremont broadleaf nursery by Mr. Taylor on the inoculation of caragana seedlings with nitrifying bacteria, indicates no nodule formation on the roots of one-year seedlings. Mr. Taylor is of the opinion that the exceedingly dry condition of the soil at the time the inoculated seed was sown may have prevented the successful development of the inoculum.

In connection with this experiment Mr. Wright, Associate Pathologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, states that the occurrence and extent of nodule development is dependent somewhat upon soil fertility. Leguminous plants grown on soils with an adequate supply of available nitrogen produce little or no nodules, whereas similar plants grown on soils deficient in nitrogen produce conspicuous nodules. A comparison of seedlings from inoculated and untreated seed fails to show any advantages for the plants grown from inoculated seed. However, Mr. Wright states that the results of inoculation are apt to be more obvious in comparative survivals and growth rates during the succeeding year.

DIGGING AND GRADING COST DATA

Some interesting cost figures have been made available as a result of preliminary studies on digging and grading made by Mr. Taylor at the Fremont broadleaf nursery. The studies, based on a total of 610,000 usable seedlings including eight species, show the average cost per thousand for the various operations as follows:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Defoliating before undercutting (hand stripping) | \$.236 |
| Digging and transporting to storage (defoliated stock) | .53 |
| Defoliating by sweating process, (includes removal from pits) | 1.33 |
| Grading in storage | .53 |
| Digging and field grading | .97 |
| Top pruning with power mower (cost per M negligible) | |

MEET THE FOREST RANGER

"The Ranger is coming!" sings the farm telephone line as the County Agent calls the prospective participant in the ACP range program to announce the impending visit of the Range Examiner, says State Director Cobb. North Dakota ranchers are developing a very real respect for these quiet fellows who are often able to point out things that the rancher has been looking at for years but has never actually seen. On their part, the Range Examiners are having some novel experiences and seeing new things.

D.S. Nordwall opines that probably all Range Examiners are asked curious questions, and recounts that "a little girl whom I picked up on the road one cold day subjected my uniform, breeches, and boots to a minute and puzzled scrutiny, then with a light of dawning intelligence queried 'going camping?'"

"Then there was the rancher who, observing my Forest Service shield remarked, 'I thought Forest Rangers sat in little glass houses and looked for forest fires. What do you know about range land and how many stock my place will carry?' When the examination revealed that the carrying capacity of his land almost exactly coincided with the number of head being grazed, he was satisfied but obviously still puzzled."

And "Colorado" Jim Cayton concludes that it was a mistake to have plowed up the high plains, and thinks Dame Nature had it pretty well fixed up for a mighty good cow country if left alone. Says he: "The nutritive value of the buffalo and gramma grasses are practically the same Summer and Winter, and maybe that is why the snow blows into drifts in the draws and coulees--so that stock can graze in the Winter as well as Summer."

The following was received from a Junior Foreman: "The time of year has at last approached when Old Man Winter and Jack Frost have rubbed the sleep from their eyes, and hand-in-hand are stealing out every night to frolic about a bit. Need for the old red flannels has arisen and so to the change of differential and transmission grease for the truck and pickups. Would you please advise me if we are to get this grease at the Jamestown warehouse or have a service station do the job." Probably we ruined a poet when the stern requirements of official correspondence were pointed out, but life is like that.

Due to the fact that a large number of strips were not fenced at the time of planting, it has been necessary to build pens in which to place poison for rodent control purposes. Landowners have been asked to cooperate to the extent of furnishing the necessary material, and have responded to a gratifying degree. In addition to being very good cooperators, North Dakota strip owners are very favorable to rodent extermination and the methods of control used. To date approximately 600 pens have been built. These pens are 8 feet square, the height depending on the length of the posts.

- B.O.W.

Bert DeMent says that he has Nature working on his side in the establishment of an interesting administrative study. A heavy August rainfall covered part of his District, resulting in a late but luxuriant growth of Russian thistles in the strips. The rows have been cleared to facilitate re-planting, but the thistles have been left in the middles with the hope that they will catch snow and thus contribute to moisture storage. The thistles are easily removed with a fork in the Spring, and it is proposed to compare these strips with clean cultivated ones to determine what effect the weed growth may have had in increasing the soil moisture content.

: OKLAHOMA :

Frosts have occurred since November 1, making possible commencement of digging operations in our nurseries earlier than we had previously thought possible. It will now be possible for us to have digging and grading operations well under way by November 15.

Mr. Shipp, photographer from Washington, D. C., was picked up in Kansas by Howard Carleton, Jr., November 7. Mr. Shipp will probably have to extend his visit if he sees any Oklahoma sunshine. His visit is a little too late to get pictures of trees in complete foliage. Some defoliation has occurred with most species in the strips and nurseries.

Mr. Young has prepared a check list for voucher preparation as a reference sheet in typing vouchers, Forms A-4 and 79a-b. This form is proving very helpful here and further information can be secured by writing the Fiscal Agent or his office if any one is interested.

The Biological Survey has been very busy trying to protect the trees from rodents, principally rabbits. These tree destroyers did little damage during the dry spell, but as soon as new growth started after the September rains, damage became general throughout the planted areas. During September, 6,297 rabbits were killed and 36 acres cleared of sand rats, and in October, 5,200 rabbits gnawed their last tree while 27 acres were worked for rats.

James Kyle participated in one rabbit "drive," and after suffering the humiliation of having a number of the animals double back and escape through the line between his feet, grumbled that the effective way to carry on that work would be to yoke the critters together.

- Carl Regnier

A complete analysis of survival counts for the entire State shows that 59.56% of all trees and shrubs planted during 1936 have survived and 58% of 1935 plantings. The almost 100% mortality in wilding stock planted does two things: (1) makes the survival picture look worse than it should, (2) indicates that planting of wilding stock is not satisfactory under conditions existing the past two seasons.

A Field Officers' Training and Planning Conference was held in the Oklahoma Office October 26, 27 and 28. Part of the time was devoted to training in preparation of various reports, invoices, expense accounts, etc., and the balance to planning the work to be done during this quarter.

AND SO IT IS!

Messrs. Young and Butler, accompanied by Mrs. Butler (this will become significant later on) and Mrs. Douglas, drove to Fort Worth and Dallas recently to take in the Centennial Expositions in those cities. They picked up Miss Louise Blevins, formerly Senior Stenographer in Oklahoma and now with the Bureau of Entomology, in Fort Worth, and gave the big shows a thorough once over. They are loud in their praise of the exhibits, buildings, and general magnificence of the expositions, and feel that it was time well spent.

Mr. Young took in Sally Rand's Nude Ranch at Fort Worth. His comment upon it was terse but ample. "It was better than I expected," he said.

- J.R.N.

: SOUTH DAKOTA :

Lee Kirby attended the meeting of all County ACP Committees held at Brookings on November 9 in the interests of the Range Program. A start on the development of the South Dakota Range Program was made by the Range Committees at this meeting. Mr. Kirby was asked to sit in with this committee so that it would have the benefit of his advice and counsel on range matters. His services and assistance were greatly appreciated by the ACP officials in this State.

On November 10, A. L. Ford, State Director, spoke to all agricultural students at the State Agricultural College on the benefits of farm forestry to the plains region. A series of three talks on this subject has been requested by C. Larsen, Dean of Agriculture. Most of these agricultural students come from leading farm families from all over the state and should make a good congregation to which to preach the gospel of farm forestry.

Men detailed to this state from the South have heard so many alarming tales about South Dakota blizzards that they are keeping one eye on the sky and the other on the barometer. Recently this office received the following memorandum written at Mitchell from R. L. Buskirk, who is on detail here from Kansas:

"Snowed in here at 4:50 p.m. Plan to go on to Chamberlain as soon as weather permits. R. L. Buskirk"

The weather that prompted this memo was a light flurry of snow resulting in about an inch or so. Buskirk was informed that South Dakotans never allowed "light fogs" to hold them up and that we could find no logical reason why such circumstances should delay Kansans. Our recommendations to Buskirk were that he get on his red underwear and keep going.

Later we did get a storm that had the earmarks of an old-fashioned Dakota blizzard. In the central part of the state from 12 to 14 inches of snow fell on the level, accompanied by a high wind that blocked all roads. At the time Buskirk was at Pierre after a truckload of cottonwood wildlings. On November 3, we received a note from him at Pierre as follows:

"Expect the local papers to report a light frost!--Buskirk"

Seriously, Buskirk from Kansas and Davis from Texas are mighty good men. If other men detailed to us from the South are as good, there will be no complaint from this unit.

On October 29, a number of SCS officials visited our Rapid City Nursery accompanied by Associate Forester Max Pfaender. The group included Ross Williams, Regional Forester, A. D. Stoescz, in charge of Regional Nurseries, P. L. Keene, Associate Forester for South Dakota and Mr. Phillips, Assistant to Mr. Williams. These men were greatly impressed with the quality and quantity of stock produced at our Rapid City Nursery.

Earl J. Pierce is on detail in North Dakota assisting in the Range Program.

- A.L.F.

: TEXAS :

WEBB LEARNS ABOUT TEXAS

For the benefit of the South Dakota bunch who may envy us this winter in the "Sunny South," it rained every day the first ten days we were here and we never shivered so much or so long all last winter as we did during that time. Must be that we were not used to so much dampness all at once. That was more rain than we had seen in seven years.

Heard over the radio that a snowstorm and zero weather had hit North and South Dakota. Well, it got real cold here, too. This morning's paper claims that garden truck is hurt a bit and the boys put on a sweater now and then to play golf.

When we received our assignment to this State, we realized of course that there were several species of trees and shrubs used in the plantings throughout the South that we were not familiar with, such as vitex, soapberry, chittamwood, jujube, etc. What we were not prepared for was the difference in the appearance of species that we did think we knew well. Hackberry has a lighter bark, not nearly so ridged as in the North. Ash twigs are much thicker and coarser. Both Ash and American Elm leaves are thicker, glossier, and a different shade of green, so it is no longer safe for us to look off a block or two and say that tree is so and so, as we could in Dakota. We have learned that Osage Orange is Bois d'Arc, and Chinaberry and Soapberry are synonymous, - we hope!

Our eight-year-old daughter is away ahead of all of us; after two weeks of school she already sounds like a native Texan, with a drawl that would do credit to a Confederate Daughter.

- W.E.W.

HOUN' DAWGS NOT PROTECTED

A Texas rancher recently made claim for \$150 damages resulting from the alleged poisoning of three hounds through eating poisoned rabbits on a shelterbelt strip. The Solicitor refused to pass the claim on the grounds that "it is a general rule that the owner of uninclosed land is not bound to keep his premises safe for the trespassing animals of others."

NOT RUBBING IT IN, BY ANY CHANCE?

In the last PLAINS FORESTER some irresponsible fellow said that there were not enough Shelterbelt employees left in Texas to make up a table of bridge. Well, we don't play bridge in Texas anyway. That evidence of social decadence may reach us in time, but to date the grand old game of stud poker still holds sway in the best circles in these parts.

This writer, being possessed of the true missionary spirit, gave a lesson or two in the technic of this art during his last trip to Lincoln, and was much gratified over the efforts of certain gentlemen in Fiscal Control to master it. It is too much, perhaps, to say that they became proficient in it, but at least they learned that an ace in sight and a four-bit bet are not proof positive that the hole card is also an ace. To paraphrase the English saying, Texas expects that every man will do his duty, and this loyal son of the Lone Star State looks forward to a resumption of this effort to snatch a brand from the burning.

- S.A.B.

: JUST GOSSIP :

(By, and about, everybody)

Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, Fiscal Agent, has been detailed to the Washington Office, where he is assigned to the office of Personnel Management, for a period of two or three months. Between working hours Bill is visiting Baltimore, Gettysburg, Washington Monument, and other points of historical interest.

-0-

Mrs. Mavis of the Nebraska Office and Mr. McClure, formerly of Engineering, have been transferred to the Soil Conservation Service at Des Moines and Salt Lake City, respectively. We wish them good luck in their new work.

-0-

Word is received from Frank E. Hausherr, who is on leave without pay, that he has already taken in the cities of Salt Lake and Los Angeles, has dedicated the big bridge at San Francisco, and is now heading for the tall and uncut in the Pacific Northwest. There is some rumor that Frank will bring back a blushing bride with him. We have been unable to have this confirmed by Frank to date, but we expect a reply as soon as he sees a copy of this issue of the PLAINS FORESTER. Let's let our hair down and get confidential about this, Frank.

-0-

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Shelterbelt Stork Scorns Liquidation Mandate

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wright, Sharon Ernestine Wright, November 11, and to Mr. and Mrs. T. Russell Reitz, a boy, name not yet announced, but we'll bet he will answer to "Junior" at feeding time. All hands are reported to be doing nicely, and the scogars smoked grand.

-0-

The constitution shields every citizen from the necessity of giving evidence that may tend to incriminate him, but if any members of the organization are secretly addicted to chess, Nurseryman Carl Taylor, of Fremont, Nebr., is keeping a confidential file of persons who wish to indulge in correspondence play or to exchange problems.

-0-

Perry A. Thompson, Forest Supervisor of the Willamette Forest, Eugene, Oregon, stopped in the Regional Office November 10 for a few hours' visit, en route to Washington for a two or three months' detail. We gave him a letter of introduction to Bill Ihlanfeldt, but warned him that Bill is addicted to weird and exotic forms of poker, "duccos wild" and "one-eyed jack" being a couple of the more conventional. We are hoping for the best.

-0-

Migratory Shelterbelters are on the wing to the Sunny South, 9 of them having deserted the frozen wastes of North Dakota for Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Flight equipment included eight $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks, 3 pickups--and it is to be hoped plenty of heavy undies. No one ever actually froze to death in Texas, perhaps, but many a hapless wight has longed for a nice comfortable igloo at the North Pole when one of those famous "blue northers" was blowing.

Bill Wulf was detailed to the Kansas Office for a week to assist in general office work during the temporary absence of Mr. Bennett.

-0-

Several members of the Regional and Nebraska State Offices went pheasant hunting during the open season in Nebraska, and discovered why the powder manufacturers wax rich. Some automobiles that went out groaning under the weight of ammunition carried, returned with an amount of game that required a lot of dumplings to make a pheasant dinner. This scribe still believes that he can hit the dern things if--but we have already been chided for this.

-0-

Mr. Simpson was with us last week in connection with Range Management work.

-0-

Our bowling team has been taking it on the chin with almost monotonous regularity here lately. We have succeeded in losing the last two series (6 games) without getting in the win column, which, to say the least, is ba-a-a-d. We have a lot of good alibis in stock, but the only one that seems worth mentioning is the fact that our gallery has dwindled to a point where you can practically hear a pin drop (no pun intended) when we make a strike. We roll best with a shriek of "geeve ect to heem!" ringing in our ears.

-0-

Mr. Roberts is in Washington attending the Regional Forester's conference, November 23 - December 5. Latest news from him is to the effect that no one has so far been able to get a full nelson on him, and that he was having elastic put in his waist-band in anticipation of Thanksgiving dinner with the Stewarts.

---ooeOooo---

ONLY 100 YEARS AGO

There was not a public library in the United States.
Almost all furniture was imported from England.
An old copper mine in Connecticut was used as a prison.
There was only one hat factory and it made cocked hats.
Every gentleman wore a queue and powdered his hair.
Crockery plates were objected to because they dulled the knives.

Virginia contained a fifth of the whole population of the country.
A man who jeered at the preacher or criticized a sermon was fined.

Two stagecoaches bore all the travel between New York and Boston.

A day laborer considered himself well paid with two shillings a day.

Buttons were scarce and expensive, and the trousers were fastened with pegs or laces.

Leather breeches, a checkered shirt, a red flannel jacket, and a cocked hat formed the dress of the real artisan.

-- Mutual Mutterings.